



Mr P Hatton
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Emma Gee
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29 July 2026

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Hatton

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE WEEPING WILLOW TREE AT NEWLYN, THE WARREN,
READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 83/07.**

Thank you for your application of 11 June 2026 regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 17 July 2026, I have the following comments:

The mature Willow is situated close to the riverbank with a lean towards the river and a crown weighted in that direction. The canopy is also hanging low over the river.

Given the inherently weak wood of Willow, the need to appropriately manage the tree to minimise the chance of branch failure into the river and to ensure sufficient clearance is appreciated, hence a reduction of the crown, incorporating a lift of the branches above the river, is reasonable.

Your application seeks approval for a crown reduction '*by up to 3 metres throughout the canopy, maintaining the tree's natural form and appearance*'. As discussed during my visit, it is prudent to try and minimise the size of pruning wounds as this species is particularly prone to decay at pruning points. The annotated photographs provided in your email of 14 June would cut through the main limbs creating large wounds. I explained that a reduction is acceptable in principle but the creation of smaller wounds by pruning differently, but hopefully achieving the same result, would be prudent. The reduction will also differ in the amount throughout the crown due to its asymmetry and your tree surgeon will have to use their professional judgement in implementing the approved works to ensure the tree is left with a reasonably shaped form. The approval below provides some indicative pruning points as examples - the dense leaf coverage and limited access did not enable multiple photographs to be taken.

The approved works can either be viewed as a reduction or a high pollard as the reduction/pollard points will form future pruning points for crown management.

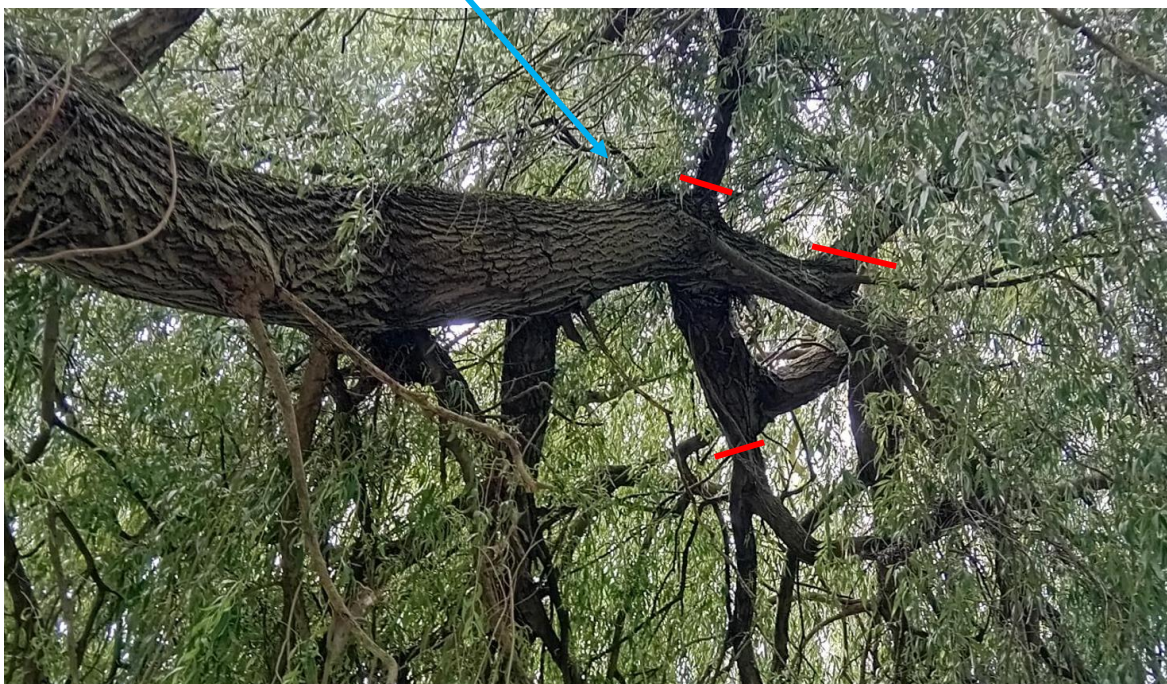
I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs below:

- T1 Weeping willow - crown reduce / create a high pollard by reducing the crown back leaving the primary structure intact; that being the trunk and scaffold limbs (trunk and weight bearing stems, and branches to the point where they begin to divide). Crown lift any remaining low hanging branches to ensure a 3m clearance above the river.

Officer note: the photographs below are indicative of one area only - the remainder of the crown should be pruned in line with the approved pruning principle to leave a well balanced and shaped crown



Indicative reduction points as a guide



You will note timing condition 3 below - if implementation of the approved works is desired in the late summer window, I would recommend waiting for the current hot and dry weather to break to avoid additional stress on the tree, albeit access to water is not likely to be problematic for this tree.

Conditions

1. Five days' notice in writing shall be given to the Council prior to undertaking the approved works.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority is given sufficient notice of the works to enable the effective monitoring of tree work within the Borough.

2. All tree surgery shall be in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations.

Reason: To ensure that all works are carried out in an acceptable arboricultural manner

3. The approved canopy reduction shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

4. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees, except on trees to be felled.

Reason: Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage

Informatives

1. You are advised that, in accordance with Part 4, 17 (4) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012, this decision is valid for one pruning operation (as per the approved specifications) to be undertaken within two years from the date of this notice, after which the consent lapses and a new application will be required.

2. Disturbance of wildlife: It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to disturb roosting bats or nesting birds. It is advisable to consult your tree surgeon/consultant to agree an acceptable time for carrying out any work. Wildlife and habitat controls are administered by Natural England who can be contacted on 0300 030 6000

If you wish to appeal against any of the conditions attached to this consent, please contact the Planning Inspectorate within 28 days of receipt of this letter to obtain the relevant forms:

Trees and Hedges, Room 3A Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay Bristol, BS1 6PN

Telephone: 0303 444 5000

E-mail it to: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Website: [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer